

AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into a plurality of sheets of predetermined size, in which the sheets or processed products of the sheets are ~~sheet material or a processed product of the sheet material is~~ manufactured by processing the sheets ~~sheet material~~ or performing predetermined operations on the processed products of the sheets ~~sheet material~~ at each of processing operations or processing sections provided at the processing operations while conveying the sheets ~~sheet material~~ along a predetermined line, the method comprising:

detecting passage of the sheets or the processed products of the sheets ~~sheet material or the processed product of the sheet material~~ by sheet ~~material~~ detectors disposed at entrance and exit sides of each of the processing operations or the processing sections where the sheets or the processed products of the sheets enter and exit ~~sheet material or the processed product of the sheet material enter enters and exits~~ the processing operations or the processing sections; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheets or the processed products of the sheets ~~sheet material or the processed~~

~~product of the sheet material~~ based on results of detection by the sheet ~~material~~ detectors.

2. - 5 (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) A method for controlling manufacture of a sheet material cut into [[a]] sheets of predetermined size applied to a manufacturing line including an operation section for performing a predetermined operation on the sheets ~~sheet material~~ while conveying the sheets ~~sheet material~~ along a predetermined conveyance path, the method comprising:

detecting passage of the sheets ~~sheet material~~ by sheet ~~material~~ detectors respectively disposed at entrance and exit sides of the operation section where the sheets enter and exit ~~sheet material enters and exits~~ the operation section; and

controlling conveyance or manufacture of the sheets ~~sheet material~~ based on results of detection by the sheet ~~material~~ detectors.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the predetermined operation comprises sorting the sheets ~~sheet material~~.

8. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the operation section comprises a branch path for sorting the sheets ~~sheet material~~ being conveyed, and the sheet ~~material~~ detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the branch path.

9. - 17. (cancelled).

18. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein:

the operation section includes a sorting section for sorting the sheets ~~sheet material~~ and conveying and collecting the sheets ~~sheet material~~ into different collection sections, the sorting section including a sheet ~~material~~ conveyance path with at least one branch gate, the at least one branch gate operating so as to direct a sheet ~~the sheet material~~ conveyed thereto to one of different paths therefrom;

sheet ~~material~~ detectors are disposed at entrance and exit sides of the at least one branch gate for detecting ~~[[the]]~~ a sheet ~~material~~ that passes through or has passed through the at least one branch gate; and

the determining step determines a conveyance status of the sheet ~~material~~ based on results of detection by the sheet ~~material~~ detectors.

19. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the determination is made as to whether or not any failure has occurred in at least one of conveyance and sorting of the sheets ~~sheet material~~.

20. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the conveyance status of a sheet ~~the sheet material~~ is determined based on checking at least one of the results of detection by the sheet ~~material~~ detectors disposed at the entrance and exit sides of the branch gate.

21. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein one of the collection sections is disposed, together with a counter for counting a number of the sheets ~~sheet materials~~ collected at the respective collection section, at each of terminal ends of the branch paths.

22. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the paths branched from the at least one branch gate directs the sheet ~~material~~ toward a next branch gate.

23. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein the manufacturing line is controlled so as to stop conveyance of the sheets ~~sheet-material~~ based on a determination of a failure.

24. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the sheet ~~material~~ is produced by cutting to a predetermined length a long material wound in a roll, the method further comprising calculating a number of produced sheets ~~sheet materials~~ based on a length of the material drawn out from the roll, and comparing a number of the sheets ~~sheet-materials~~ collected in the collection sections with the calculated number of produced sheets ~~sheet-materials~~.

25. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the comparison between the numbers of the sheets ~~sheet-materials~~ is performed when conveyance of the sheets ~~sheet material~~ is stopped.

26. (withdrawn - currently amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein at least one of wrapping and packaging the collected sheets ~~sheet-materials~~ is carried out, the method further comprising the steps of counting a number of sorted sheets ~~sheet materials~~ and the numbers of at least one of the wrapped and

packaged sheets ~~package sheet materials~~, respectively, and comparing, at a predetermined timing, the number of sorted sheets ~~sheet materials~~ and the number of the at least one of wrapped and packaged sheets ~~sheet materials~~.